With external control components there is the problem that this internal information is not requested from the network node or made available by the network node.

In the document "Implementation techniques of intserv/diffserv integrated network" by Minghai Xu et al., IEEE vol. 1, 9 April 2003, improvements are disclosed for integrated services in the context of Intserv/Diffserv networks. To this end service level specifications (SLS) with flow diagrams and algorithms are proposed, with which defined DSCP values are provided for signaling messages. Limits are also discussed for delaying services in Diffserv networks.

In document WO 01/03383 a system and a method are disclosed for transmitting data in a communication system. This comprises a source network node, a packet data network, routers or switches and a destination network node. The source network node sends data packets, which contain information about the path or hop response, to a control network node. The control network node sends the data packets to a destination network node but with a different hop response from the one originally specified in the data packets. This different hop response was sent previously from the destination network node to the control network node.

The object of the present invention is to specify a method, with which received IP packets can be relayed with interface information from the receiving network node to an external control component.

This object is achieved by a method according to the features of claim 1.

The advantage of the invention is that IP packets with internal network node control information are relayed to an external control component. This means that a control component "added on" to a network node can take over more extensive control tasks from the network node.

Advantageous developments of the invention are specified in the subclaims.

An exemplary embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the drawing and described below.

Figure 1 shows a schematic IP network with internal network node control components AC according to the prior art,

Figure 2 shows an IP network with the same structure as in figure 1 with external control components AC connected to the network node according to the invention.

Figure 1 shows an IP network according to the prior art as already described in the introductory part.

Claims

1. Method for relaying internet protocol packets or IP packets to a control component (AC) assigned respectively to a network node (A, ..., H) in a communication network having a plurality of network nodes (A, ..., H) and switching IP packets, in which IP packets are received, identified, evaluated and processed at interfaces of the network node (A, ..., H), characterized in that in the case of an in-band IP signaling packet received at an interface of the network node (A, ..., H) and identified there, which is characterized by an input in the protocol field of the header field of the IP packet, a unique value assigned to the respective receiving interface, which is different from the values of the other respective interfaces, is input in a defined field of the header field or IP header of the IP packet and the modified packet is rerouted/output to the control component (AC).